

the age of 14 he devoted his youth to preparing for his eventual role as a defender of America. Prior to his active duty service, he was a member of the Young Marines of Pensacola, Florida and the Pace High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

A native of Pace, and a resident of Bratt, Lance Cpl. Nelson, also had relatives in the nearby South Alabama towns of Atmore, Brewton, East Brewton and Daphne.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend condolences to his parents, Scott and Beckie Nelson; his brother, Daniel Nelson; his half brother, Chandler Case; sisters, Jenna Nelson, and Anna Nelson; and grandmothers, Anna Sanspree and Louise Nelson; as well as his fiancée, Madeline Cates.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to this tribute the words of Sherry Digmon, publisher of Atmore magazine made in honor of Lance Cpl. Nelson.

"In tragedy, we come together. Atmore and the surrounding area came together in August as we all mourned the death of Marine Lance Cpl. Travis Nelson who was killed while on duty in Afghanistan. He was 19.

Most of us didn't know LCpl. Nelson, but we all knew him. His was the face of the young man who always wanted to be a Marine, who loved the flag and country, and who enlisted to preserve our freedoms.

On Friday, August 26, as we waited for the funeral procession to make its way down Main Street from the First Baptist Church to Oak Hill Cemetery, we looked at the people around us, almost all holding flags—the veterans lined up on the sidewalk in front of the American Legion building; the kids and the older folks; people who came out of their businesses and stood in the mid afternoon sun.

The Patriot Guard Riders came to Atmore to accompany the body of LCpl. Nelson and his family from Petty Eastside Chapel Funeral Home to First Baptist Church, then from the church to Oak Hill Cemetery. My hat is off to this fine group of men and women on motorcycles who show their respect to the fallen soldier by honoring and protecting the sanctity of his funeral and burial.

Someone in our group said, "That's America." We agreed. And then I said, "That's Atmore."

This was one event I hope never to witness again—the funeral of a young soldier. I hope never again to think about how a mama feels when she sees the officers standing at her front door. How a fiancée feels when she finds out her intended has been killed. How the men in his unit felt when they heard he didn't make it."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 702 and 703.

Had I been present for rollcall 702, on agreeing to the amendment, Holt of New Jersey Amendment No. 7 to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 703, on agreeing to the amendment, King of Iowa Amendment No. 8 to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING ALYCE L. DIXON ON HER 104TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Alyce L. Dixon on her 104th birthday on September 11, 2011.

As the nation and the city recalled a tragic day ten years ago that changed the lives of many and altered American history, the District of Columbia celebrated Alyce's birthday and applauded her for her support to the country and to the city.

Alyce Dixon has spent most of her life as a resident of the District of Columbia. After graduating from Paul Lawrence Dunbar Senior High School, she attended Howard University in the District. Ms. Dixon worked at the Lincoln Theatre, at an insurance company, and was one of the first civilian employees at the Pentagon, from which she retired after 35 years of service to the federal government.

Alyce Dixon was one of the first women to join the military and one of the first African-American women to become a member of the Women's Army Corps. While in the Army during World War II, Ms. Dixon served as part of the 6888th Postal Battalion in France, Scotland, and England, where she and other African-American women sorted mail for soldiers. Before retiring from the military, Ms. Dixon received the Good Conduct Medal to commemorate her service to the Army. She continued to serve the public by volunteering at Washington Hospital Center and Howard University Hospital for 12 years.

As a resident of the Washington, DC VA Medical Center, Alyce is loved by the hospital staff, personnel, and residents alike. She has the unique ability to bring joy to others, and is known especially for her bubbly personality and comedic storytelling.

Ms. Dixon is a member of Jones Memorial United Methodist Church, where she has graced the congregation with inspirations for a long life, filled with joy and laughter. She has also supported D.C. students in their pursuit of higher education through generous donations to church scholarships and youth programs.

In celebrating this significant milestone, we acknowledge the extraordinary personal qualities and contributions of Alyce Dixon to her family and to our community. Her birthday gives me, her family, and friends, as well as the residents of the District of Columbia, an opportunity to thank her for her many gifts of love, friendship, and consideration for others. I ask the House to join me in celebrating the 104th birthday of Alyce L. Dixon, a special woman whose service to this country and community is greatly appreciated.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the attack against our nation ten years ago today was our generation's Pearl Harbor. Indeed, in many ways it was far more infamous. More Americans died on September 11th than in the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was an attack not upon some distant outpost but upon our nation's greatest city and our nation's capital city. It was an attack not upon heavily armed warships, but upon defenseless Americans peacefully going about their business.

This atrocity set new records for its ruthlessness and barbarity and depravity. Benjamin Netanyahu called it a "wake-up call from hell," and that's exactly what it was. It is appropriate, though, to note one constant that defines us as a people and that guarantees us that all will come right. I speak of something that can only be described as the Spirit of America.

The attack on our nation ten years ago reminded us that the American spirit is still very much alive, and that this generation is more than capable of rising to great acts of heroism.

The attack ten years ago produced a pantheon of heroes—Americans who had gone about their business one peaceful morning, and in a few brief moments found themselves facing well prepared, intractable and barbaric adversaries.

At that fateful moment, they rose to the occasion. They resisted with everything they had. On December 7th, cooks became gunners and nurses passed the ammunition. On September 11th, office workers became rescue workers and businessmen laid down their cell phones and took up hand-to-hand combat in the skies over Pennsylvania.

Centuries from now, Americans will proudly remember the story of the young men and women aboard Flight 93 as it headed for our nation's Capitol: how they responded instantly to their country's peril — and armed only with their bare hands stopped cold those who would destroy our nation. In his last words heard over his cell phone, Todd Beamer asked—not just of his fellow passengers, but of all of his fellow countrymen: "Are you guys ready?" His answer on behalf of us all was, "Then let's roll."

The memory of firefighters and police officers rushing into the burning buildings as everyone else rushed out personified duty and honor for an entire generation.

For those young people in our nation who were not alive to experience, or were too young to remember that day just over ten years ago, we have an obligation as a society to pass on our memories and the lessons we learned, purchased at the high price of innocent life and years of conflict.

I rise today in recognition of the ongoing work of the Young America's Foundation to preserve our history for future generations.

Each year Young America's Foundation helps students—many of whom comprise the "9/11 generation"—to properly remember the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks through their 9/11: Never Forget Project. Young America's Foundation began this program in 2003.

Young America's Foundation works with students to establish American flag memorials—displays consisting of 2,977 American flags representing each person tragically killed in the terrorist attacks. This year, students at more than 280 schools erected such memorials on their school grounds. Students held campus-wide moments of silence or prayer on September 11, at 9:11 a.m., hosted patriotic speakers and first responders at their schools, and provided 9/11: Never Forget posters and other materials to distribute on the anniversary. Young America's Foundation is making sure that future generations understand the events of that horrific day, remember its victims and remember the many examples of courage, patriotism and dedication which have, and will continue to inspire so many.

This tenth anniversary year is not just a time to memorialize the fallen—as important as that is. This upcoming September 11, we humbly celebrate America's endurance, strength, and goodness. In doing so, we will ensure that future generations will never forget.

While we can erect grand edifices and give speeches about 9/11, it is this simple and poignant tribute in remembrance of those we have lost and all those who serve that speaks loudest across the years. It is my privilege to rise today and thank the Young America's Foundation for its ongoing service to our nation and our posterity.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act.

While there is no silver bullet to resolve all the problems facing our nation's education system, this bill represents a critical step toward better preparing our children to meet the challenges of a 21st century economy. It is also the first major element of reform to be acted on this year by either chamber of Congress.

We all want our kids to be able to attend a great school. It's like my father told me, "If you have a good education, you can accomplish anything."

That's why transparent and accountable charter schools are so important. They ensure greater access among our children to the high-quality education they deserve. Moreover, charter schools often operate in flexible and innovative ways that promote student success.

Unfortunately, demand for these opportunities continues to outpace supply. Over 400,000 U.S. students remain on waiting lists for enrollment in charter schools.

That's why I support H.R. 2218, which contains provisions that will remove barriers to the establishment of charter schools, improve academic performance, and reduce the number of students waiting for admission. This legislation also establishes commonsense quality controls that will protect students and taxpayers alike. The bill requires accurate assessments of schools through independent financial audits, and establishes clear academic and performance standards.

Following passage in the House, this bill will be sent to the Senate, where I hope it receives the consideration it deserves. And, should it be signed into law, I will continue to work with my colleagues to monitor its impact and ensure that our nation's charter school system continues to reflect the transparency and accountability required by this legislation.

HONORING SERGEANT KEVIN
GLASER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Kevin Glaser of Sikeston, Missouri, for his 28 years of dedicated law enforcement with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The people of my congressional district and the state of Missouri are grateful for Kevin's commitment to ridding our communities of illegal drug activity.

For 22 years Kevin has been on the front lines of drug enforcement in Missouri as the leader of the Southeast Missouri, SEMO, Drug Task Force. The SEMO Drug Task Force's main objective is to crack down drug creation, distribution and use through the southern Missouri. Kevin commanded the task force for over 16 years.

Kevin displayed courageous leadership in the face of great challenges in the name of safer Missouri communities. As methamphetamine use spread across rural America, Kevin and his squad made record arrests and seizures. In fact, over 75 percent of their efforts in drug enforcement were fighting the scourge of meth use in southern Missouri.

In a 1997 L.A. Times article, Kevin was quoted as saying: "It's hard to imagine a drug controlling you the way it does . . . They see their family falling apart, their bodies falling apart, but the only thing that matters to them is the dope." This drug was Kevin's enemy and the SEMO Drug Task Force's enemy, and they fought the enemy tirelessly.

I am thankful for Kevin's dedicated service with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I am excited for his retirement, although I hear he is still playing an advisory role with the officers' training. Kevin, I wish you the very best on this new venture.